

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) An electron source comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - an insulating material layer provided on the substrate, wherein the insulating material layer has a plurality of partially exposed metal oxide particles on its surface and a plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles; and
 - an electron-emitting material and an electrode connected with said electron-emitting material, wherein said electron-emitting material and said electrode are disposed on said insulating material layer, and an average particle size of said partially exposed metal oxide particles is different from an average particle size of said enclosed electrode metal oxide particles.
3. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to Claim 2, wherein the plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles form a metal oxide particle layer in the insulating material layer.
4. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to Claim 2, wherein the plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles and the plurality of partially exposed metal oxide particles form a metal oxide particle layer in the insulating material layer.

5. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to Claim 2 , wherein the average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles partially exposed on the surface of the insulating material layer is larger than the average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles enclosed in the insulating material layer.

6. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to Claim 2 , wherein the average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles partially exposed on the surface of the insulating material layer is in the range of 50 nm to 70 nm, and wherein the average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles enclosed in the insulating material layer is in the range of 6 nm to 40 nm.

7. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to Claim 2 , wherein the average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles partially exposed on the surface of the insulating material layer is 60 nm, and wherein the average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles enclosed in the insulating material layer is in the range of 6 nm to 40 nm.

8. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to Claim 2, wherein the substrate is one containing sodium.

9. (Currently Amended) The electron source according to Claim [[1 or]] 2, wherein the insulating material layer is a sodium blocking layer.

10. (Currently Amended) The electron source according to Claim [[1 or]] 2, wherein the insulating material layer is an antistatic layer.

11. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The electron source according to Claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the metal oxide particles are electron conductive oxide particles.

22. (Currently Amended) The electron source according to Claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the metal oxide particles are particles of an oxide of a metal selected from the following metals: Fe, Ni, Cu, Pd, Ir, In, Sn, Sb, and Re.

23. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus comprising an envelope, an electron source according to Claim ~~1~~ or 2, and an image display member adapted to display images through application of electrons from the electron source, arranged in the envelope.

28. - 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A substrate structure which is a precursor to an electron source, and on which an electron-emitting device of the electron source is to be disposed, the substrate structure comprising:

a substrate; and

an insulating material layer provided on the substrate, wherein the insulating material layer has a plurality of partially exposed metal oxide particles on its surface and a plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles, wherein an average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles partially exposed on the surface of the insulating material layer is larger than an average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles enclosed in the insulating material layer.

31. (Previously Presented) A substrate structure which is a precursor to an electron source, and on which an electron-emitting device of the electron source is to be disposed, the substrate structure comprising:

a substrate; and

an insulating material layer provided on the substrate, wherein the insulating material layer has a plurality of partially exposed metal oxide particles on its surface and a plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles, wherein an average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles partially exposed on the surface of the insulating material layer is in a range of 50 nm to 70 nm, and wherein an average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles enclosed in the insulating material layer is in a range of 6nm to 40nm.

32. (Previously Presented) A substrate structure which is a precursor to an electron source, and on which an electron emitting device of the electron source is to be disposed, the substrate structure comprising:

a substrate; and

an insulating material layer provided on the substrate, wherein the insulating material layer has a plurality of partially exposed metal oxide particles on its surface and a plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles, wherein an average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles partially exposed on the surface of the insulating metal layer is 60 nm, and wherein an average particle size of the plurality of metal oxide particles enclosed in the insulating material layer is in a range of 6nm to 40nm.

33. (Currently Amended) The electron source according to any one of Claims [[1,] 2, 30, 31 or 32, wherein said insulating material layer contains SiO₂ as a main ingredient.

34. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to any one of Claims 30, 31 or 32, wherein the plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles form a metal oxide particle layer in the insulating material layer.

35. (Previously Presented) The electron source according to any one of Claims 30, 31, or 32, wherein the plurality of enclosed metal oxide particles and the

plurality of partially exposed metal oxide particles form a metal oxide particle layer in the insulating material layer.